GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1287
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2007
MOUNTAIN TOURISM
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken steps to encourage mountain tourism in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of trekkers, skiers and mountaineers who visited Indian mountains as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Government has entered into any arrangements with foreign countries to promote Indian Himalayas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Ministry of Tourism has taken the following steps to promote mountain tourism:-

i) Ministry of Tourism issued guidelines laying down basic minimum standards for adventure tourism related activities, in order to ensure safety of participants/tourists in such activities as well as minimum acceptable standards in terms of equipment and human resources. These guidelines cover land, air and water based activities which include mountaineering, trekking, hang gliding, paragliding, bungee jumping and rafting.

ii) Brochures, CDs, other publicity material have been produced by the Ministry and widely circulated in target markets.

iii) Adventure Tourism including Mountain Tourism has been specifically promoted at various international platforms such as World Travel Mart, London, ITB Berlin etc.

iv) Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to the State/UT Governments for the development of tourism projects including adventure and mountain tourism on the basis of proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

(c): The Ministry of Tourism does not collect separate information on trekkers, skiers and mountaineers who visited Indian mountains.

(d) & (e): Ministry of Tourism has entered into bilateral agreement/Memorandum of Understanding with several countries to promote India's Tourism products on reciprocal basis.